

The Last 50 Years



Who's going to clean this mess up?

The auto, a big factor in creating air pollution became very popular before people knew of the hazards. Environmental laws were enacted less than 40 years ago. Even now auto manufacturers lobby the government to extend deadlines for reducing pollution.

Did you know SUVs are exempt from emission standards of cars? They are considered trucks which are classified as farm machinery.



Passenger cars registered:
40 million in 1950;
61.5 million in 1960;
87 million in 1969;
134 million in 1994.



Behold the Minivan -
what's Old is
New again..
23 mpg (1967),
22 mpg (2002).

TRANSPORTATION HISTORY



In America steamers and electric cars gained success well before gasoline. Eventually U.S. car companies produced electrics and in (1912), nearly 35,000 were on our roads. But were limited by the bulky batteries and short range between recharging.



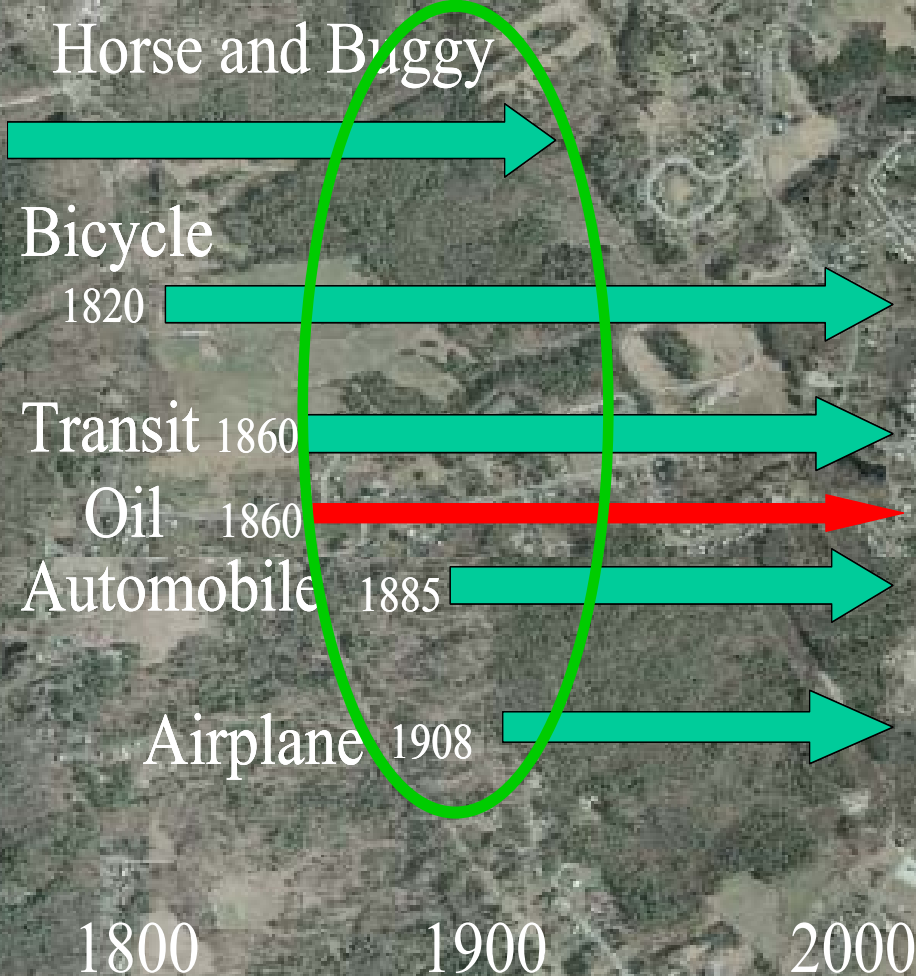
GET A HORSE!

Early autos were smelly, smoky, loud and unreliable. They also shared the road or path with horses and carriages. Early motor laws said that if an auto was approaching a horse to pass it, the auto needed to get off the road and make the car inconspicuous, so as not to scare the horse. Otherwise, horsemen would shout, “get a horse!”



Antique Car photos taken at
Owls Head Transportation Museum,
Rockland, ME

Transportation History Timeline



Late 1800's Industrial Revolution

Cities are built
around factories

Oil rush

1/3 of all patents
applied for
are bicycle related

Steam powered cars

Gasoline powered cars

Electric powered cars

BICYCLE HISTORY

1817



1954



2002



WHY WAS DETROIT “MOTOR CITY”?

Historians attribute the automobile’s explosion of growth in Detroit to the network of superior roads built for bicyclists.

In the late 19th century, people were obsessed with wheels. It was home to a myriad of small shops making carriages and bicycles. The shops were filled with tinkerers for whom the simple idea of adding a motor seemed obvious.

Reference: “Vivian Baulch -
The Detroit News.com/history/bikes.bikes.htm”

Display recreated courtesy of Erik West, Kids in Transportation, Cumberland County, Maine

